



## Introduction — Floods

Floods are a common disaster in many areas of the U.S. Floods may come in the form of "flash floods" which come with little or no warning. Other floods are more gradual, as with a large storm front, a tropical storm, or a hurricane washing ashore. Flood waters often damage property and can even kill; they can pollute the wells and city water systems, making them unsafe to use.

Flooding that results from spring thaws may be anticipated through good forecasting but the exact amount is unpredictable. In a year when heavy rain coincides with seasonal high water, property which has not been exposed to flooding for years or even decades may be threatened.

Chapter 9 will assist Extension Faculty in educating their communities on how to prepare for floods and what to expect during floods. Flood safety precautions, protecting livestock, building dikes, how to deal with chemicals such as pesticides and farm evacuation are discussed in Chapter 9.

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